

## Starting the Indigenisation Process of Social Work Practice in Malaysia

*Adam Andani Mohammed, Social Work Studies, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, University Malaysia Sarawak*

*Md Sayed Uddin, Sociology and Social Anthropology Faculty of Humanities, Arts & Heritage, University Malaysia Sabah*

*Bassoumah Bougangue, C/O Sheila Ayangba Ghana Police Service New Market Kasoa, Ghana*

### 1 Introduction

Social work emerged from the voluntary work of the friendly visitors and has become a global professional programme particularly in educational institutions today. The idea of human services describes the breadth of social welfare, community agencies and programmes across the globe (Jones, & Truell, 2012; Bulmer, 2015). This explains why the profession has greater opportunities for work and as well has important role to play in community welfare and development in ensuring inclusive development within the reach of all groups and communities (Dorling, 2015; Jayasooria, 2016). The practice in social work requires skills in social networking, resource assessment and development, analysis of community needs and social-action strategies to be able to engage in effective community welfare programmes and mobilization. This results in appropriate professional services delivery and advocacy for change to enhance human well-being and environmental sustainability (Sachs, 2015; Jayasooria, 2016). The recognition of the needs to provide the necessary resources and opportunities in order to improve the quality of lives of every member of the society constitutes the mandate of social work (Wairire, & Zani, 2015). As such some tertiary institutions in Malaysia have introduced social work programmes to push social work studies and practice to higher height and the limelight of national development agenda.

The social work practice ought to be linked to the highest ideals that are constantly reshaped under pressure from professional bodies, public expectations, service consumers, political and socioeconomic forces based on interaction that transcend local and international borders. The cultural background of the theories and perspectives employed to provide services for the well-being of the people excluded certain local social divisions like race, gender and ethnicity contextually (Abramovitz, 2017; Kirst-Ashman, 2015; Payne, 2015). As such this may limit the access to social power and resources of the populations in specific localities. The limitation is linked with the profession considering the role it plays at the levels of policy and programme development. So the acquisition of funds and resources, training and support of aid workers as well as the actual delivery of services to society should be based on the worldview of the people. Wairire and Zani (2015) the skills to handle and facilitate both small and large groups levels to support poor people, health care needs and environmental sustainability are essential and should reflect the tenants of the locality. With these, the social workers are well placed in contributing in social policy on how distribution of resources should be done and with what guidelines to follow (Birkland, 2015; Hepworth, Rooney,